

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 07203 170839Z

ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-07 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /062 W

-----171209Z 035440 /44

R 170820Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7818

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS TOKYO 7203

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PROV, ETRN, JA

SUBJECT: TRANSPORT MINISTRY ORGANIZATION: MAJOR PROJECTS

REF: STATE 104263

PASS TO: DOT: J. HERZ

1. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION, RESPONSIBILITY FOR JAPAN'S TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS LIES WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT ESTABLISHED IN 1945. THE PRESENT MINISTER IS HAJIME TAMUFA, APPOINTED IN DECEMBER, 1976. MAJOR PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE MINISTRY'S CURRENT BUDGET ARE THE FOLLOWING:

A. FINANCIAL AID TO THE JAPANESE NATIONAL RAILWAYS (JNR):  
ALTHOUGH THE JNR HAS OPERATED IN THE RED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, THE SITUATION HAS BEEN ACUTE SINCE 1969. A 50 PCT RAISE IN FARES EFFECTIVE NOV., 1976, HAS NOT ALLEVIATED THE SITUATION BUT APPEARS TO HAVE FURTHER AGGRAVATED THE JNR'S FINANCIAL POSITION BY DRIVING THE PUBLIC TO ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF TRANSPORT. WITH THE AIM OF EASING THE JNR'S FINANCIAL BURDEN BY JFY 1979  
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 07203 170839Z

AND IMPROVING THE JNR RAIL SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HIGH SPEED LINES NORTH TO SENDAI AND WEST TO THE JAPAN SEA COAST, \$6.1 BILLION HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR EXPENDITURE IN 1977. THE AID MEASURES CONSIST MOSTLY OF SUBSIDIES, GOVERNMENT LOANS AND GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES OF FLOATING JNR DEBENTURE ISSUES.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS: SHOJI SUMIDA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, RAILWAY

SUPERVISION BUREAU, MOT; FUMIO TAKAGI, PRESIDENT, JNR.

B. ASSISTANCE TO SHIPBUILDING AND ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES:  
AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST SHIPBUILDER AND TANKER CONSTRUCTION  
EXPERT, JAPAN HAS BEEN HIT HARD BY THE FALL-OFF IN NEW SHIP  
ORDERS. THE GOJ PLANS TO CONTINUE ITS PROGRAM OF ASSISTING  
EXPORT SHIP CONSTRUCTION BY OFFERING \$875 MILLION IN GOVERNMENT  
LOANS TO SHIPYARDS THROUGH THE JAPAN EXPORT-IMPORT BANK.

SLIGHTLY OVER A HALF MILLION DOLLARS IS ALSO TO BE SPENT ON  
RESEARCH RELATED TO SWITCHING FROM SMALL SHIPBUILDING TO SCRAPPING  
AND OTHER ACTIVITIES. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: MUNETO SHASHIKI,  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL, SHIP BUREAU. IN ADDITION, IN ORDER TO EXPAND  
JAPAN'S OWN OCEANOGING FLEET AS WELL AS PROVIDE SOME ONGOING  
BUSINESS FOR THE SHIPYARDS, THE GOJ WILL CONTINUE ITS LOANS  
THROUGH THE JAPAN DEVELOPMENT BANK TO SHIPOWNERS TO HELP FINANCE  
THE CONSTRUCTION OF APPROXIMATELY 650,000 GROSS TONS OF CONTAINER  
SHIPS AND ORE-CARRIERS; THE LOAN FIGURE WILL APPROXIMATE \$198  
MILLION. SOME \$52 MILLION WILL ALSO BE LOANED FOR COASTAL SHIP  
CONSTRUCTION. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: SHIGEYA GOTO, DIRECTOR-  
GENERAL, SHIPPING BUREAU.

C. IMPROVEMENT OF PORTS AND HABORS, COASTS AND AIRPORTS:  
DURING THIS SECOND YEAR OF THE FIFTH 5-YEAR PORT AND HARBOR  
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, \$819 MILLION WILL BE SPENT ON PORT  
FACILITIES AND NAVIGATION CHANNELS. ANOTHER \$71 MILLION WILL BE  
SPENT FOR COASTAL CONSERVATION. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

KIICHI OKUBO, DIRECTOR GENERAL, PORT AND HARBOR BUREAU, MOT. ZM  
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PAGE 03 TOKYO 07203 170839Z

JAPAN CIVIL AVIATION BUREAU WITHIN THE MOT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR  
UPGRADING JAPAN'S MAJOR AIRPORTS AND FOR ADMINISTERING FUNDING UNDER  
THE NATIONAL AIRPORT NOISE ABATEMENT PROGFAM. DURING THIS FISCAL YEA  
R,  
\$426 MILLION WILL BE SPENT ON AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT, INCLUDING A BETTER  
NAVIGATIONAL AID SYSTEM, AND FOR ANTI-NOISE MEASURES. AN ADDITIONAL  
\$96 MILLION WILL BE SPENT FOR FURTHER CONSTRUCTION AT NEW TOKYO  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT NARITA AND \$6 MILLION FOR A PRELIMINARY  
SURVEY FOR A NEW OFFSHORE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT NEAR OSAKA.  
RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: HISAO TAKAHASHI, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, JCAB.

D. SUBSIDIES FOR LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES:  
LOCAL TRANSPORT NETWORKS (BUSES, SUBWAYS, PRIVATELY OWNED COMMUTER  
TRAIN LINES) HAVE SUFFERED A DECLINE IN PASSENGER TRAFFIC AND A  
CONCURRENT INCREASE IN OPERATION AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS. SOME \$498  
MILLION IS EARMARKED THIS YEAR FOR CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF  
SUBWAYS AND ZYE PRIVATE RAIL LINES. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:  
SHOJI SUMIDA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, RAILWAY SUPERVISION BUREAU:  
SHIRO NAKAMURA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, ROAD TRANSPORT BUREAU.

E. BUILD-UP OF MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY FLEETS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 200-MILE FISHING LIMIT:

A TOTAL OF \$63 MILLION IS TO BE SPENT FOR NEW PATROL BOATS AND AIRCRAFT, IMPROVING NAVIGATION AIDS SYSTEM, POLICING, AND CONTROLLING SEA POLLUTION. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: YASUHIKO SONOMURA, COMMANDANT, MSA.

F. METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE:

SOME \$23 MILLION IS TO BE SPENT FOR IMPROVED WEAZV FORECASTING AND RESEARCH REGARDING EARTHQUAKE FORECASTING. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: NAOSUKE ARIZUMI, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY.

2. RESPONSIBILITY FOR NATIONAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION, INCLUDING TOLL ROADS, RESTS WITH THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION. ACCORDING TO THE JFY 1977 BUDGET, \$4.5 BILLION WILL BE EXPENDED FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT DURING THIS YEAR.

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PAGE 04 TOKYO 07203 170839Z

3. THE MOT HAS INFORMED US THAT THE JAPANESE DELEGATION TO THE JUNE CONFERENCE WILL PROBABLY BE LED BY PARLIAMENTARY VICE MINISTER HAJIME ISHII. A MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART WAS PREVIOUSLY FORWARDED THE DEPARTMENT AS AN ATTACHMENT TO A-330, SEPTEMBER 30, 1976.  
SHOESMITH

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009